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JOHN ALEXANDER GALBREATH 2516 CHESTNUT WOODS CT REISTERSTOWN, MD 21136			JANVIER, JEAN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/473,078

Applicant(s)

SHKEDI, ROY

Examiner

Jean D Janvier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-82 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Response To Applicant's Amendments

The Examiner approves the changes made to the claimed invention by the Applicant.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

On page 4 and line 8, "one distributors" should apparently be --one distributor--.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-41 were canceled and claims 42-82 were added and hence, claims 42-82 are currently pending in the Instant Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 42-55, 60-67, 68-76, 77 and 78-82 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth, PCT Application WO 98/34189 in view of Goldhaber, US Patent 5, 794, 210.

As per claims 42, 68, 77, 78, 79 and 81, Roth discloses a method and/or system for providing advertisements from a server to viewers (10) who access web sites (14) over the Internet based at least on the viewers or users (10) characteristics or profile, which match a set of criteria or characteristics associated with the advertisements (16A) from the advertisers or distributors. A viewer (human) 10 using a client PC running a client browser 11 visits a web site 14 having an HTML reference to a view server 320 for signaling the occurrence of a view-op. In other words, this visit at the registered or participating web site 14 triggers a view-op, that is an opportunity to transfer a targeted advertisement to the visitor or viewer if his profile variables match one or more advertisers' profile attributes and in accordance with the highest bid received from bid input server 18 on behalf of a bid winner or advertiser who bid along with other advertisers for the opportunity to transfer or present one targeted advertisement to the user or viewer who causes the view-op. A web server 310 coupled to the user's client PC sends the view-op signal to the view server 320 of fig. 3, which retrieves among other things the user's profile stored in database 16B (database of viewer information) and passes it to bidding agent 30 (intermediary), which receives a plurality of proposed bids from bid input server 18 (intermediary or agency working on behalf of the advertisers or bidders), for comparing and evaluating the viewer's profile to the plurality of proposed bids specifications and wherein the result of this comparison or evaluation, that is a number of selected proposed bids along with

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their related bid prices, is forwarded to the bid selection logic 16C coupled to view server 320 for selecting the highest bid. Following the highest bid selection, the view server 320 transmits a signal to web server 310 to retrieve from database 16A or ad table 16A the advertisement associated with the winning bid to be presented to the viewer of the view-op. At the conclusion of the transaction, the database 16B is updated to reflect a successful view-op. Further, a log and billing unit 320A collects data regarding the view-op, wherein the data are used for billing and auditing purposes. It is herein understood that the proposed bids, including bid prices, bid profile attributes requirements and r associated advertisements, are stored or recorded in the system database or database 18T coupled to the bid input server 18 of fig. 3 prior to the user's or viewer's visit or view-op occurrence. It is further understood that the system is advertised to the advertisers or advertising distributors via conventional means and desired bid information, including bid prices, profile attributes requirements or targeted audience and the associated advertisements, are collected ahead of time from interested advertisers and supplied to bid input server 18 (agency or third party) for storage in database 18T where the bid information or proposed bids from a plurality of responding advertisers is retrieved and delivered, during a view-op event, to bidding agent 30 for comparing and evaluating the bid information to the viewer's profile when a view-op occurs. Moreover, the submitted bids or the responses from the plurality of advertisers contain various profile attributes requirements that must be satisfied by a view-op, wherein these various profile attributes submitted by various advertisers form a number combination of different profile attributes (fig. 3, 5 and 7; page 11: 16 to page 14: 3; page 22: 1 to page 24: 1; page 26: 4 to page 37: 2).

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Furthermore, if a viewer profile (variables) does not contain all the attributes specified in a proposed bid submitted by an advertiser, then the proposed bid in response to a view-op will not be considered by the bidding agent 30, which evaluates the proposed bid vis-à-vis the incoming view-op profile. The advertiser has the latitude in choosing the profile attributes that he feels or deems relevant to help the viewer make a buying decision (page 22: 1-9). **Additionally, the bid profile attribute requirements or criteria may be very stringent in a situation where the proposed bid price is high and the advertiser wants to reach only a very selected group of viewers. On the other hand, the criteria may be loose if the bid price is low and the advertiser wants to reach a large number of viewers who meet only a minimum set of criteria or fewer profile attributes than the actual profile attributes specified by the advertiser or bidder. For example, a proposed bid might have a single attribute or criterion such that the view-op is from all users who use "Netscape browser". In this case, the total economic value related to the price of all attributes within the profile is equal to the price of the single criterion specified in the bid. Alternatively, a proposed bid might specify values or contain a plurality of attributes (a, b, c, e, g, h, and i), wherein a, b, c, e, g, h, and i representative of various attribute values may be different for each bidder or advertiser (page 26: 6 to page 28: 6).**

Finally, Big agents 30 (intermediary) evaluates the proposed bids along with advertisers' specifications or criteria or profile attributes, submitted by a plurality of advertisers prior to the view-op or a visit by a user to a registered web site 14, before forwarding the qualified bids that correspond with the view-op or the user's or viewer's 10 profile having one or more variables or parameters to bid selection logic 16C, coupled to view server 320, for selecting the highest bid,

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based on a best-profile attribute matching criteria, wherein the view server 320 sends a signal to web server 310 to retrieve from ad table or ad database 16A an appropriate advertisement related to the highest bid and wherein the advertisement is displayed on the screen of the client browser 11 to be read by the user or viewer. One or more servers can be used to implement the system disclosed here (fig. 3: page 11: 16 to page 14: 3). Further, database 16B coupled to view server 320 of fig. 3 contains a series of tables for storing viewer history data (previous viewing habits, purchases, click-throughs, viewer registration data, etc.) (page 17: 15 to page: 21: 15).

As per claims 42, 68, 77, 78, 79 and 81, Roth does not expressly teach assigning to some or all the individual attributes within a profile, submitted by an advertiser, a price or an economic value contribution and determining the total cost of a profile combination by adding the cost of each single attribute that makes up the profile to thereby select the profile attribute combination that yields to the highest price.

However, Goldhaber teaches a system wherein a user or consumer is paid to read targeted advertisements, from an advertiser, attention brokerage or other parties, based on the consumer's profile. In one embodiment, the consumer clicks or activates an associated Cybercoin icon 62 to initiate retrieval and display of the associated advertisement on the consumer's computer 104 screen. In the interactive embodiment, the displayed advertisement asks the consumer a series of questions related to the viewing of the advertisement. The displayed advertisement, as herein

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understood, having an embedded code that causes the computer 104 to send a first signal, indicative of the user's activation and the user's interaction with the said advertisement, upward to the Attention Brokerage Server 106 (administration server), which returns a message or a second signal or a digital cash, in the form of a computer code, related to the said advertisement and representative of the Cybercoin 62 to the user's computer 104 to be stored in a digital cash repository 126 subsequent to determining by the Server 106 that the user has successfully completed the process of reading the displayed advertisement (col. 16: 6-15).

In another embodiment, the system or the attention brokerage server 106 allows advertisers to compete in a passive form or manner or to bid in an aggressive manner or form for the attention of a particular consumer or a group of consumers. Indeed, in the passive form, advertisers make fixed offers for viewers' attention and viewers select among the fixed offers based on a profile matching. Further, in the bidding form or "attention bidding", a mechanism by which advertisers actively or aggressively compete by bidding for a viewer's attention so as to efficiently target the viewer and to present a customized advertisement to the viewer if the viewer's profile matches the advertiser's profile is provided. The bidding might be based in part upon estimates of the viewer's interest and likelihood to buy the advertiser's product or service or on estimates derived from access to the viewer's electronic profiles detailing the viewer's preferences and past consuming behavior. The bidding may be explicit or automatic, that is the viewer may select which offer to accept or the system may offer bidding without the viewers' knowledge, wherein it is contemplated that the system is operable to select the highest bid (col. 4: 41-62). In either case, the ad or advertisement is custom-fitted to the viewer's preferences or profile, thus ensuring that the advertising messages will be welcomed and attentively viewed in

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an interactive manner by the viewer, wherein this ability to finely target or customize ads based on the interest or profile of a particular viewer maximizes efficiency and benefits both the advertisers and the viewers, who are encouraged to read and interact with the transmitted ads for the opportunity to receive compensations from the advertisers subsequent to positively verifying that the viewers had indeed interacted with the advertisements (col. 4: 64 to col. 5: 5; claim 47 of the present reference).

In another embodiment, viewers' privacy is maintained. In other words, the viewers' profiles are to be kept private, dynamic and interactive. Here, the system protects the viewers' privacy by not releasing their profile data to advertisers expect if the advertisers agree to pay for the viewers' profiles and the viewers in turn accept the terms of such transactions, while at the same time the system maintains enough information from the viewers' personal profiles for the purpose of presenting specialized targeted ads to the viewers without revealing their identities and their personal information to the advertisers (col. 6: 24-67). On the hand, an interested advertiser might be willing to pay for some or all the attributes or parameters that make up a viewer's profile. For example, the interested advertiser may offer \$2.00 for the viewer's name and address (col. 7: 1-7; col. 12: 46-58; col. 12: 60 to col. 14: 56; col. 17: 12-26; claim 8 of the current reference).

Finally, it is common practice in the art to assign a value or a rate or a weight to some or all attributes that make up a user's profile and to charge an advertiser who wants to display an advertising message to the user having such a profile based on the value or rating or weighting

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given to those attributes (No further disclosure is necessary here- See the Dedrick's reference and the Gerace's reference cited in the conclusion section).

Therefore, an ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated at the time of the invention to incorporate the above disclosure into the Roth's system so as to receive, via bid input server 18 for permanent storage in database 18T, from a plurality of advertisers a plurality of bid responses or bid information wherein each bid includes a bid profile containing various parameters or attributes, an advertising message related to a particular bid and a bid price, which is computed in accordance with a pricing model associated with a weight value or rate percentage or dollar figure or a fair market value previously paid by at least one advertiser to a targeted user for each single attribute or a set of attributes that make up that user's profile for the purpose of presenting targeted ads to the user, wherein the system is operable to independently assign a weighting value or a monetary value to some or all attributes within a potential customer's or visitor's profile prior to a view-op and determine or calculate a price for the potential customer's or visitor's profile by adding the individual costs or individual weighting values or rating percentages related to the customer's attributes of the customer's profile and when a view-op occurs the bid input server 18 retrieves from its database 18T the bid information including bid prices from a number of advertisers or bidders and forwards the bid information to the bidding agent 30 for evaluation and comparison, in accordance with a profile attribute matching, and the bidding agent 30 subsequently passes the selected qualified bids to the bid selection logic 16C coupled to view server 320 for selecting the highest bid for this view-op based on the total cost of the visitor's profile as determined by the system, wherein this total

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cost may be equal to or greater than the winning bid price, or based on best-fit profile determination and wherein the view server 320 sends a signal to web server 310 to retrieve from database 16A the advertisement related to the highest or winning bid to be delivered to the viewer whose visit has triggered this view-op, thereby rendering the system more flexible and fair by allowing advertisers or small entrepreneurs to participate in the bidding process for the chance to present their advertising messages to targeted viewers based on a best-fit profile scheme, that is the bid price is determined based on how well a viewer profile variables match an advertiser's specified attributes in a loosely targeted environment, while allowing the advertisers to reach a large number of viewers by being less stringent in their requirements since the system is operable to present an advertisement corresponding to a proposed bid to a user or viewer even if the viewer's profile variables do not match all the advertiser's profile attributes in a loosely targeted environment, while ensuring that the advertising messages or advertisements will be welcomed and attentively viewed in an interactive manner by the viewer and this ability to finely target or customize ads based on the interest or profile of a particular viewer maximizes efficiency and benefits both the advertisers and the viewers, who are encouraged to read and interact with the transmitted ads for the opportunity to receive compensations from the advertisers subsequent to positively verifying that the viewers had indeed interacted with the advertisements (See Goldhaber- col. 4: 64 to col. 5: 5; claim 47 of the present reference).

As per claim 46, Roth does not expressly disclose a method and/or system for at least transferring encrypted advertisements to a visitor.

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However, Goldhaber discloses a system wherein a customer can order a piece of information 50 having a price tag 52. Upon receiving payment in the value of the price tag 52 from the customer for acquiring the information, the information 50 is encrypted and transferred to the customer's computer 104, for consumption, over the Internet 102. The customer uses a decryption key provided by the information 50 provider to decrypt the encrypted information 50 at the customer's computer 104, thereby ensuring that the information 50 was securely transmitted and that its content was not tampered with during the transfer (col. 10: 9-39).

Further, transmitting encrypted data between at least two parties over a network in an effort to secure the transmission of the data so that the data are not tampered with is a well-established business method practiced or used in the industry for many years.

Therefore, an ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated at the time of the invention to incorporate the above disclosure into the Roth's system so as to at least encrypt an advertisement before it is transmitted to a qualified viewer (10) and to provide a decryption key to the viewer such that the viewer can use the decryption key to decrypt the encrypted information or advertisements at the customer's computer or viewer's client, thereby ensuring that the content of advertiser's message or advertisement was not tampered with or the integrity of the advertisement was not compromised during the transmission or transfer to the viewer's client (authentication).

As per claims 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 60, 64, 65, 66, 69, 70-76, 80 and 82, Roth discloses a method and/or system for providing advertisements from a server to viewers (10) who access web sites (14) over the Internet based at least on the viewers or users (10) characteristics or profile, which match a set of criteria or characteristics associated with the

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advertisements (16A) from the advertisers or distributors. A viewer (human) 10 using a client PC running a client browser 11 visits a web site 14 having an HTML reference to a view server 320 for signaling the occurrence of a view-op. In other words, this visit at the registered or participating web site 14 triggers a view-op, that is an opportunity to transfer a targeted advertisement to the visitor or viewer if his profile variables match one or more advertisers' profile attributes and in accordance with the highest bid received from bid input server 18 on behalf of a bid winner or advertiser who bid along with other advertisers for the opportunity to transfer or present one targeted advertisement to the user or viewer who causes the view-op. A web server 310 coupled to the user's client PC sends the view-op signal to the view server 320 of fig. 3, which retrieves among other things the user's profile stored in database 16B (database of viewer information) and passes it to bidding agent 30 (intermediary), which receives a plurality of proposed bids from bid input server 18 (intermediary or agency working on behalf of the advertisers or bidders), for comparing and evaluating the viewer's profile to the plurality of proposed bids specifications and wherein the result of this comparison or evaluation, that is a number of selected proposed bids along with their related bid prices, is forwarded to the bid selection logic 16C coupled to view server 320 for selecting the highest bid. Following the highest bid selection, the view server 320 transmits a signal to web server 310 to retrieve from database 16A or ad table 16A the advertisement associated with the winning bid to be presented to the viewer of the view-op. At the conclusion of the transaction, the database 16B is updated to reflect a successful view-op. Further, a log and billing unit 320A collects data regarding the view-op, wherein the data are used for billing and auditing purposes. It is herein understood that the proposed bids, including bid prices, bid profile attributes requirements and r associated

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advertisements, are stored or recorded in the system database or database 18T coupled to the bid input server 18 of fig. 3 prior to the user's or viewer's visit or view-op occurrence. It is further understood that the system is advertised to the advertisers or advertising distributors via conventional means and desired bid information, including bid prices, profile attributes requirements or targeted audience and the associated advertisements, are collected ahead of time from interested advertisers and supplied to bid input server 18 (agency or third party) for storage in database 18T where the bid information or proposed bids from a plurality of responding advertisers is retrieved and delivered, during a view-op event, to bidding agent 30 for comparing and evaluating the bid information to the viewer's profile when a view-op occurs. Moreover, the submitted bids or the responses from the plurality of advertisers contain various profile attributes requirements that must be satisfied by a view-op, wherein these various profile attributes submitted by various advertisers form a number combination of different profile attributes (fig. 3, 5 and 7; page 11: 16 to page 14: 3; page 22: 1 to page 24: 1; page 26: 4 to page 37: 2).

Furthermore, if a viewer profile (variables) does not contain all the attributes specified in a proposed bid submitted by an advertiser, then the proposed bid in response to a view-op will not be considered by the bidding agent 30, which evaluates the proposed bid vis-à-vis the incoming view-op profile. The advertiser has the latitude in choosing the profile attributes that he feels or deems relevant to help the viewer make a buying decision (page 22: 1-9). **Additionally, the bid profile attribute requirements or criteria may be very stringent in a situation where the proposed bid price is high and the advertiser wants to reach only a very selected group of viewers. On the other hand, the criteria may be loose if the bid price is low and the advertiser wants to reach a large number of viewers who meet only a minimum set of**

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criteria or fewer profile attributes than the actual profile attributes specified by the advertiser or bidder. For example, a proposed bid might have a single attribute or criterion such that the view-op is from all users who use “Netscape browser”. In this case, the total economic value related to the price of all attributes within the profile is equal to the price of the single criterion specified in the bid. Alternatively, a proposed bid might specify values or contain a plurality of attributes (a, b, c, e, g, h, and i), wherein a, b, c, e, g, h, and i representative of various attribute values may be different for each bidder or advertiser (page 26: 6 to page 28: 6).

Finally, Big agents 30 (intermediary) evaluates the proposed bids along with advertisers' specifications or criteria or profile attributes, submitted by a plurality of advertisers prior to the view-op or a visit by a user to a registered web site 14, before forwarding the qualified bids that correspond with the view-op or the user's or viewer's 10 profile having one or more variables or parameters to bid selection logic 16C, coupled to view server 320, for selecting the highest bid, based on a best-profile attribute matching criteria, wherein the view server 320 sends a signal to web server 310 to retrieve from ad table or ad database 16A an appropriate advertisement related to the highest bid and wherein the advertisement is displayed on the screen of the client browser 11 to be read by the user or viewer. One or more servers can be used to implement the system disclosed here (fig. 3: page 11: 16 to page 14: 3). Further, database 16B coupled to view server 320 of fig. 3 contains a series of tables for storing viewer history data (previous viewing habits, purchases, click-throughs, viewer registration data, etc.) (page 17: 15 to page: 21: 15).

As per claims 61-62, Roth discloses a system wherein a user's domain, browser type and cookie are used to recognize or identify the user during an event, such as logging into web site 14, which triggers a view-op or an opportunity to transfer a targeted ad to the user if his profile matches the advertiser's upon recognizing the user via information retrieved from his cookie file (page 8: 13-21; page 20: 4; page 36: 21 to page 37: 2; page 31: 19 to page 32: 3).

As per claim 55, Roth discloses an Internet advertising system wherein Web Server 310 of fig. 3 (communication node) receives an HTML reference (a view op) or HTTP request from web browser 12 when the viewer or visitor (10) accesses a web site having a link to advertising Web Server or Web Server 310 (page 6: 5-25). If the characteristics of a viewer or visitor (10) meet the criteria of a proposed bid, bidding agent (30) will submit a bid to view server 320 based on a minimum or maximum bid or a fixed amount or budget an advertiser is willing to spend for the right to display his advertising message to a particular viewer (10) having a set of characteristics or profile. After receiving input from bidding agents (30), the bid selection logic 16C in view server 320 selects the highest bid and indicates to the Web Server 310 which advertisement from database (16A) should be displayed in response to the HTTP request. In response to the input from view server 320, the web server 310 delivers the appropriate advertisement to the viewer or visitor (10). It should further be understood that the steps of collecting responses from distributors or advertisers are performed automatically using the bid input server 18 of fig. 3 in conjunction with the advertisers' or distributors' targeted profile or characteristics and an amount (predetermined threshold) that the advertisers or distributors are willing to pay for the opportunity to deliver a targeted ad to a user having a specific profile and

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wherein the viewer's profile and the advertisers' or distributors' targeted profile are stored in databases corresponding to the system (page 3: 19 to page 4:10; page 12: 13-17; page 13: 13-23; page 16: 1-9; fig.1; see abstract).

As per claims 44 and 51-52, Roth disclose a method and/or system wherein bidding agent (30) will submit a bid to view server 320 if the characteristics or profile of a viewer or visitor (10), a human, meet the criteria of a proposed bid from an advertiser or distributor. The visitor's profile contains at least information from web sites previously visited, IP address of the visitor's PC, demographic information provided by the visitor during registration, which are stored in database 16B of fig.1. It should further be understood that the visitor will fill out a registration form, containing a plurality of fields including a header, where he will provide his personal information used in determining whether or not his profile or characteristics match the criteria or characteristics specified by an advertiser in a bid (page 1: 23 to page 2: 2; page 3: 23 to page 4: 7; page 13: 13-23; page 15: 11-15; page 15: 20-25; page 17: 1-5; page 36: 4-19; page 37: 23-24; 15).

As per claims 63 and 67, Roth discloses a method for advertising on the Internet wherein a viewer or visitor (10) uses a client to visit web sites over the Internet. A cookie or file stored on the visitor's client or computer collects data regarding the visitor's visits to these web sites and these data are subsequently analyzed and used along with the visitor's personal information to compose a profile for the visitor and wherein this profile is used in the matching of characteristics by bidding agent (30) or intermediary before an appropriate advertisement is sent

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to the visitor by Web Server 310, thereby eliminating the possibility to send irrelevant or unwanted advertisements to the visitor. Finally, an advertiser can effectively use the tracking or auditing data stored in the cookie to decide whether or not a visitor has read his ads and based on this determination, the advertiser might bid more or less money (page 3: 19 to page 4: 10; page 13: 13-23; page 17: 1-2; page 36: 21 to page 37: 2; fig. 1; fig. 6B).

Claim 56-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Roth and Goldhaber and further in view of Bezos, US Patent 6,029,141 as applied to claims 42, 68, 77 and 78 above.

As per claims 56-59, the combination of Roth and Goldhaber does not expressly disclose a method and/or system for allowing a viewer or visitor to visit an advertiser's web site subsequent to viewing a related advertisement (follow-up visit), wherein the viewer purchases a product or service featured in the advertisement and sold at the advertiser's web site and wherein the viewer's purchase is recorded or audited such that the audited information or transaction data is used to compensate the owner of the advertising medium or communication node owner for a successful referral.

However, Bezos discloses a method and/or system for distributing product promotions to the public wherein an agent or associate or Amazon.com partner will set up a web site or associate's web site 100 having a link or referral link to the Amazon.com site or Merchant's web site 106 to recruit visitors or customers. Upon visiting the associate's web site 100 using his PC

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108 of fig. 5, a visitor or customer can access information about products, such as books, sold at Amazon.com web site and if the customer or visitor wants to learn more about an advertised product or even make a purchase, he/she can click on the referral link associated with the advertised product to be transported to the Merchant's site 106 to purchase the product. If the customer or visitor purchases the advertised product at the Merchant's web site 106, then the transaction data or auditing information are first recorded in a database and later used to compensate the associate of the referring web site 100 for a successful referral based on some predefined criteria (See abstract; figs 1-2 and fig. 5).

Therefore, an ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated at the time of the invention to incorporate Bezos' teachings into the Roth's and Goldhaber's systems so as to display, at an associate's or communication node owner's web site, an advertising message related to a product or service from an advertiser or bid winner to a qualified visitor for viewing, wherein upon reading or viewing the advertising message the user or visitor can click on a referral link displayed at the associate's web site to visit the advertiser's web site where he can receive more information about the product or service featured in the advertising message or even purchase the said product or service and wherein if the customer or visitor purchases the advertised product at the Merchant's or advertiser's web site 106, then the transaction data or auditing information are first recorded in a database and later used to compensate the associate (communication node owner) of the referring web site 100 for a successful referral based on some predefined terms, thereby rendering the system (the distribution of targeted advertisements to qualified visitors) more cost effective and attractive to advertisers, while preventing fraudulent

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activities or hit inflation by the associate by eliminating the need for the advertisers to ensure that their messages were actually displayed to qualified viewers since the system is now a performance based system, that is the owner of the communication node or associate will not be compensated unless a viewer makes a purchase corresponding to an advertised product or service broadcast at the communication node web site.

Response To Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claimed invention have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. In other words, Applicant's remarks are fully addressed in the above Office Action.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 5,974,398A to Hanson discloses a system for conducting an absentee bidding wherein at least two bidders submit before hand their bid information including a minimum and maximum price they want to pay for the right to present a targeted advertising message to a qualified user based on the user's profile and when a qualified user logs into the system, the system automatically determines without the user's input the highest winning bid among the previously submitted bid prices and transmits a targeted advertising message related to the winning bid to the user in real-time.

US Patent 5,724,521A to Dedrick discloses a system for charging an advertiser for the right to distribute one of his advertising messages to one or more users whose profile variables partially or fully match the advertiser's profile attributes based on a best-fit profile matching and based on the number of qualified users who are qualified to receive the one advertising message.

WO 97/41673 to Gerace discloses a system wherein users' profile attributes are assigned particular weights and are compared to an advertiser's profile attributes in accordance with a scale and wherein the advertiser's messages are displayed to the user based on a best-fit profile matching and wherein the advertised is charged accordingly.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication from the Examiner should be directed to Jean D. Janvier, whose telephone number is (703) 308-6287). The aforementioned can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 10:00AM to 6:00 PM EST. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Eric W. Stamber, can be reached at (703) 305- 8469.

For information on the status of your case, please call the help desk at (703) 308-1113.

Further, the following fax numbers can be used, if need be, by the Applicant(s):

After Final- 703-872-9327

Before Final -703-872-9326

Non-Official Draft- 703-746-7240

Customer Service- 703-872-9325

JDJ

04/01/04



Jean D. Janvier

Patent Examiner

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